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LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GABON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have just read, with the greatest possible attention, the report of the Panel of Experts established by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999 (S/2000/203).

Paragraph 63 of the report states that 150,000 litres of fuel were reportedly delivered to UNITA from Libreville, Gabon. Likewise, paragraph 67 indicates that Gabon served as a refuelling destination for the aircraft from Eastern Europe used by UNITA.

To my great amazement, the facts reported in such a manner are not supported by any precise details that might enable my Government to shed light on these allegations, which, as you can imagine, have serious consequences.

Accordingly, we should like to know, for example, the exact dates involved and the type and registration numbers of the aircraft in question. Furthermore, by what means (aircraft or ship) were the 150,000 litres of fuel reportedly delivered to UNITA, inasmuch as the Gabonese State does not have such transport facilities?

These details, once they have been verified, would help us to determine the possible responsibilities involved, particularly if the competent services were misled or if their good faith was called into question.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Denis DANGUE REWAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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